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Commission No. 984a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: JAMES J. O'CONNOR
Date: May 8, 1964

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Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

Synopsis: Newspaper articles and investigation set forth concerning FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, mentioned by CARLOS BRINGUIER of New Orleans, Louisiana, in testimony to Counsel for President's Commission. Also set forth is article from magazine BOHEMIA INTERNACIONAL, issue of 2/2/64, wherein allegation is made that FIDEL CASTRO, during a speech on 11/27/63, committed a slip of the tongue in stating "The first time OSWALD was in Cuba....." Employee of USIA, Miami, stated that although all public speeches of CASTRO are monitored, no such slip of the tongue has been detected. He furnished translation of CASTRO's speech of 11/27/63; however no remark was noted implying that OSWALD visited Cuba.

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DETAILS: The following is based on request of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President KENNEDY as indicated in letter dated April 23, 1964, by General Counsel J. LEE RANKIN to Director J. EDGAR HOOVER.

It is to be recalled that testimony by Mr. CARLOS BRINGUIER, was taken by Staff Counsel WESLEY J. LIEBELER, of the Presidential Commission, at New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 8, 1964. As indicated on page 33 of the transcript of testimony by BRINGUIER - Cuban "spy" FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, then in New Orleans, Louisiana, by letter to CARLOS LECHUGA, former Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, warned him to be alert for the period prior to August 8 (1963), and, according to BRINGUIER, it was on August 5 (1963) that OSWALD attempted to infiltrate BRINGUIER's anti-CASTRO organization at New Orleans. BRINGUIER referred to copies of the Spanish language newspaper DIARIO LAS AMERICAS for dates of September 4 and 6, 1963, containing articles on FERNANDO FERNANDEZ.

DIARIO LAS AMERICAS is a daily paper printed at Miami, Florida.

Bringuier also testified to the existence of a military training camp, in violation of both law and national policy. The FBI didn't require Bringuier's testimony for knowledge of this, for the FBI had conducted a raid. The Commission's interest was not in the camp, the reid, who was doing what there and in preparation for what, not in violations of U.S. law or possible information about the assassination. It was interested in the farce about the alleged anti-right-wing Cuban "spy", which is one way to investigate the murder of a President.

The following is a translation of an article which appeared in the Spanish language daily, "Diario Las Americas", September 4, 1963, page 1, cols. 4-7, page 11, cols. 5-7:

SUPPOSED AGENT OF FIDEL CASTRO IS NOT DETAINED BY THE FBI

SECRET SERVICE OFFICIAL MAKES STATEMENTS TO "DIARIO LAS AMERICAS":--ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT SPEAKS. DETAILS OF THE CHARGES

A report by
BENJAMIN DE LA VEGA

Tuesday morning, the FBI told the "Diario Las Americas" that the Castro spy, FERNANDO FERNANDEZ BARCENA, "was not being detained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

This statement by the important investigative agency of the United States gives a new twist to the denunciation made public yesterday by the leader of the Christian Democratic Movement, LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, who said that he had turned over the uncovered Communist agent to the FBI.

"MAKING INVESTIGATIONS"

In answer to other questions, the official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who received the reporter said that "the pertinent investigations are being made" concerning the charges which have been made by the Christian Democratic Movement.

When asked about the statements made to the reporter yesterday by Mr. LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA to the effect that the FBI had told him that "it was not a crime for Castro agents to spy on the groups of Cuban exiles and that it is only a crime to spy against this country and not against the exiles who are violating United States neutrality laws", the FBI official smiled briefly and said, practically without moving a single muscle of his face:

"We have no comment to make on that. These are strictly personal statements by Mr. BATISTA FALLA." The official added with emphasis: "We investigate everything

Everyone else is a "Communist agent" to the right-wing Cubans. Note the quoted FBI acknowledgement that the Cuban exiles were violating U.S. law and their apparent immunity. They were indignant that the FBI did not make up a law to suit their whim. Batista Falla, as the next page shows, has instant law to cover his desires.

which may hurt the security of the United States. Anyone who is acting as a foreign agent is immediately investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Castro agents are fully included in these investigations. But in order to arrest any person charged with these crimes, we must have the necessary proof."

For his part, Mr. LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, when questioned about the release of the supposed Castro spy, said:

"We gave sufficient proof to the FBI for his arrest. But among other reasons, we turned him over to that government office for fear that the Cuban exiles would make an attempt on the life of FERNANDO FERNANDEZ BARCENA."

So far the whereabouts of the confessed Castro agent are unknown, for at no time was he presented to the press as he should have been by the Christian Democratic Movement.

DIEGO VALERO SPEAKS

DIEGO VALERO, accused by FERNANDO FERNANDEZ BARCENA of being the leader of the Castro espionage network in Nassau, has stated that he cannot understand why this charge was made. As soon as VALERO, who is working for an English firm in Nassau, heard of the statements in which he was mentioned as a Castro agent, he flew to Miami to clarify his position to the investigative agencies of the United States.

DIEGO VALERO said: "I knew FERNANDEZ BARCENA some years ago, but I cannot understand why this charge against me has been made. When he came to Miami, he came to my house and I helped him in every way that I could. Last Saturday, when he was in Miami, he visited me at the hotel, and although he told me that he was disappointed in the anti-Castro fight, I had no indication that he was going to make this decision, and of course, I had no idea that he was in the service of CASTRO."

"As a matter of fact," added VALERO, "although I corresponded with him as I did with other friends, I never knew about his activities which he now claims in the interview to have told me. I repeat that I cannot understand why this charge was made, and if it were not for the time that I have had to waste in order to come to Miami to explain all this, the whole thing would make me laugh from now until the end of the week. I believe that Justice and Truth always win out, and that is why I have appealed to the United States

How was the assassination investigated? This file shows another aspect, the philosophic approach of the FBI, the police mind at its politically most ignorant, the doctrine of the radical right that permeates it, dominates it. This report on Fernando Fernandez, who wanted to escape punishment for open violation of U.S. law, who was depressed by his own association with the anti-Castro forces and had decided they were incapable of accomplishing anything, who had been beaten with impunity by these forces, with the knowledge of the U.S.

agencies and I have placed myself at their disposal, so that they can make all the investigations which they deem pertinent."

THE CHARGE

By ADOLFO G. MERINO

MIAMI, Sept. 3 (UPI)--The Federal Bureau of Investigation today questioned a "confessed spy" for Communist Cuba who says that the subversive and espionage activities for all America are directed by the Cuban ambassadors in the United Nations and in Brazil.

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, young exiled journalist, made a complete "confession" of his presumed espionage activities in a recording which he gave to the Christian Democratic Movement, directed by LAUREANO BATISTA (no relation to the ex-dictator FULGENCIO BATISTA).

In the recorded statement, FERNANDEZ says that the so-called forces of National Liberation which are operating in Venezuela receive arms from Mexico and Cuba, and that the transfer is made on the high seas."

He adds that the network of subversion and espionage extends from the United States as far as the Bahamas and the distant South American "Southern Cone", and that the leaders of the network are "Ambassador CARLOS LECHUGA, formerly in Mexico and now head of the Cuban delegation in the United Nations, and the newly-appointed Ambassador to Brazil, RAUL ROA KOURI, son of the Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations." He indicated that the strategic "Southern Cone" also has as its leader a journalist, "JOSE RODRIGUEZ MENDEZ, Cultural Attache to the Cuban Embassy in Brazil", and that in the Bahamas "lives the immediate superior of the Miami network, named DIEGO VALERO."

A specific task entrusted to FERNANDEZ, according to his statement, is that of investigating the activities of the Cuban exiles in Central America. His chief objective was to follow the activities of MANUEL ARTIME, one of the leaders of the unsuccessful invasion of the Bay of Pigs, who is connected with the so-called "Central American Plan".

The Christian Democratic Movement in exile presented a letter which it says was sent by FERNANDEZ prior to his arrest, to the then Cuban Ambassador in Mexico, LECHUGA, which says:

government while he was being beaten - this file is under "Internal Security", with "Russia" and "Cuba" added. The FBI interviews Ruperto Pena, brother of Orest, owner of the Habana Bar, and Ruperto disputes and disproves the imaginings of Carlos Bringuier, and Ruperto's interrogation also is listed under "Internal Security", again with "Russia" and "Cuba" added. Orest Pena, who informed the FBI of those he considered pro-Castro, whose anti-Castroism is memorialized on the front pages of the New Orleans papers, but who objected to what the FBI was

260

"I happen to have infiltrated a commando group which is preparing to undertake a big operation against Cuba. I have detailed information about the military plan. The attack is imminent and is leaving from Central America..."

FERNANDEZ said that he signed his confidential correspondence with the pseudonymn of HENRY PRIETO, and he warned that "from now until August 8, it is vital to remain alert."

He said that he arrived in the United States on January 11, 1961, but he began to work specifically in the Network of Espionage and Subversion about a year ago. The recruiting was done in Kansas City, Missouri.

In Mexico, he added, LECHUGA's lieutenants were a Venezuelan "named HENDEL CRUZAL, who takes care of getting supplies for the Communist terrorist group called Front of National Liberation." The other is "OSVALDO ANAYA, a Mexican."

He said that "from Mexico, arms and money are sent to the Venezuelan terrorists. The arms are transported in Cuban fishing pbbats to some point on the high seas, where contacts are made with Venezuelan boats and those of other nationalities, which introduce them clandestinely into that country."

He said that FIDEL CASTRO's watchword for the Venezuelan terrorists is "a rifle under each jacket. CASTRO's direct agent in Venezuela is a Cuban named CANALES."

He stated that the Cuban embassies in "Mexico and Brazil are assigned, among other things, the task of issuing false passports and identification documents. Money is distributed from these centers. The Network penetrates deeply into the "Southern Cone", where journalist JOSE RODRIGUEZ MENDEZ, Cultural Attache to the Embassy in Brazil", directs all the activities of subversion and espionage."

The Miami Office of the FBI refused to give any information on the questioning of FERNANDEZ.

doing and who told me that in return he was threatened by the FBI, who swore under oath that Bringuier hates the United States and challenged the Commission to give them both lie-detector tests, is also under "Internal Security", "Cuba" added. But Bringuier, darling of the radical right whose beliefs and propaganda he mouths, who misinformed the FBI - he is not. The FBI's 12/11/63 report on him follows, immediately before the report on Orest, where the reader can see this for himself, as he can with the long series of reports about and on interrogations of Bringuier printed earlier. Not one of these bears the notation, "Internal Security", with or without "Russia" or "Cuba". Nor are those whitewashing "reports" on the "investigation" of the Cuban training camp that follow designated "Internal Security",

The following is a translation of an article from the Spanish language daily, "Diario Las Americas", September 6, 1963, page 1, cols. 6-8, page 15, col. 7:

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ ADVOCATES COEXISTENCE WITH THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF FIDEL CASTRO

Cuban ex-journalist, FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, charged with being a spy by the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuban exiles, repudiated the taped confession of his activities in behalf of the Communist regime of CASTRO, and according to a statement to "The Miami Herald", he claimed that it had been obtained from him under threats and torture.

FERNANDEZ told the authorities of Miami that the members of the Christian Democratic Movement had tortured him by tightening a cord around his neck and placing a pistol at his head in order to force him to confess that he was an agent for CASTRO.

The members of the Movement insist, however, that the aforementioned confession was voluntary, and for that reason, he had been taken to the FBI four days ago and presented along with a taped recording of the above-mentioned confession. LAUREANO BATISTA, leader of the anti-Castro organization, who obtained the confession, declared that it had been made voluntarily and that there had been no coercion.

FERNANDEZ appeared voluntarily before the officials of the Intelligence Section of the Miami Police Department, and told them that he had been beaten and "tortured" at pistol point for twelve hours. He asked that charges of kidnapping, assault and battery be lodged against his supposed torturers.

In regard to his politics, FERNANDEZ, himself, describes himself as being neither "anti-American nor anti-Castro", and says that he favors "peaceful coexistence with Cuba", in spite of the fact that he came to Miami as a refugee in 1961.

He also said that he would like to return to Cuba to stay there and to suffer along with his parents, his sister and his aunt.

He stated that the confession in question was false and that it had been obtained from him under threat of death if he did not make it just that way; therefore, after hearing his charges, the authorities decided to present them to the

although these camps operated in open violation of U.S. law and declared national policy. Yet one was raised by this same FBI, which confiscated a considerable quantity of stolen munitions but does not go into this in the reports. Is there any wonder the assassination is not solved and that the investigation left more questions than it answered?

242

District Attorney's Office in case some legal action should have to be taken.

ARTHUR E. HUTTON, Assistant District Attorney, said Wednesday that he had informed the Intelligence officers who were to hear FERNANDEZ, and that there would then be an investigation to find out if any law had been violated.

The members of the Christian Democratic Movement say that FERNANDEZ accompanied them to the FBI office of his own accord. FERNANDEZ was released Tuesday.

At no time have the FBI Agents or the Miami Intelligence officials said that the confession was true or that it was obtained under pressure, but it has been said that there would be an investigation to see whether the Movement took the law into its own hands in order to obtain a confession.

In regard to this matter, BATISTA said that they did not intend to continue the controversy, since they did their duty by turning FERNANDEZ over to the authorities in order to let the law take its course.

DENUNCIATION

In a report published by "The Miami News" on the case of the supposed Castro spy, it says that FERNANDO FERNANDEZ told the police of Miami that he had confessed to having engaged in espionage work for CASTRO only after he had been tortured for 12 hours by the exile leaders of the Christian Democratic Movement with a 45-caliber pistol aimed at his head.

According to his vague explanation, FERNANDO JOSE FERNANDEZ BARCENA, 34 years of age, tried to hinder the plans of the action groups among the exiles in order to prevent a "massacre".

"The exiles will not get anywhere in their fight against CASTRO because they do not have the proper conditions," FERNANDEZ summed up.

FERNANDEZ told the police that during his alleged ordeal of 12 hours he was subjected to "physical and mental" torture, and he finally invented a "false and exaggerated" story, which was his "confession".

He now said, "I was confused and I did not know what to do. I want to return to Cuba because I believe that FIDEL is going to stay in power, and I want to suffer along

with my people."

In the tape-recorded confession, which was turned over to the FBI, FERNANDEZ said that he had infiltrated the CIA as well as groups of exiles and that he was about to be sent to Cuba as an agent of that American agency.

In yesterday's explanation, he admitted having written a letter to Ambassador CARLOS LECHUGA in Mexico, warning him about the exiles' proposed plans for attack.

He also said that he had been "filled with anxiety" when he aroused suspicion upon infiltrating the group.

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The following information pertaining to FERNANDO FERNANDEZ was developed at Miami, Florida, during investigation conducted in August and September, 1963.

264

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On August 3, 1963, VICTOR PANEQUE BATISTA and HERIBERTO VALDES MOLLINEDA, Assistants to LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, the Military Coordinator of the Movimiento Democrata Cristiano (MDC - Christian Democratic Movement), appeared at the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and advised as follows:

Approximately a month previously, FERNANDO JOSE FERNANDEZ BARCENA was brought to the MDC office by a relative named JULIO POWER. FERNANDEZ had recently arrived in Miami from Kansas City, Missouri, and desired to join the MDC. Certain members of the MDC soon noted that FERNANDEZ took an unusual interest in the activities of the MDC, and they became suspicious of his motives. MDC member HENRY INFANTE LEDEA was delegated by the MDC to develop a close association with FERNANDEZ, in order to learn of his activities and motives. INFANTE was successful in developing such a close association, and subsequently intercepted certain correspondence which had been entrusted to INFANTE by FERNANDEZ for mailing. Among the items of correspondence which were made available by the MDC to the FBI, either in original or copy form, was a letter written by FERNANDEZ to the Cuban Ambassador in Mexico, marked "Personal and Confidential". This letter, which was not mailed, was as follows:

"August 1, 1963

"Cuban Ambassador in Mexico

"Your Excellency:

Where are "the other items of correspondence which were made available...to the FBI"? Someone on the Commission staff saw the importance of this and underscored it. There is nothing of this description in the file, typical of the investigation of the murder of the President. The propaganda, however, is here.

2 CE

"I have by chance infiltrated in a commando group which is preparing to engage in a serious operation in Cuba. I have some detailed reports on this military plan.

"The attack, which is imminent, is leaving from Central America.

"It is possible to prevent it, and for that purpose, a comrade and I, who wish to return to serve (or "again to serve") the Revolution of Dr. FIDEL CASTRO, offer our services.

"Obviously, we are not in Mexico now. This letter has reached you through friendly hands.

"My comrade and I wish to return to Cuba. We ask you to intercede for us. Also, what way can we use to return? Is it possible to get diplomatic asylum in some Embassy in Central America? Is it possible to escape by some clandestine means.

"In short, we await instructions.

"It is vital for you to remain alert from now until the 8th in order to receive our communication.

"Our code name will be: HENRY PRIETO.

"We can assure you that this demoniacal commando plan has very serious implications and consequences. And we wish to warn you in time and to prevent it.

"Wait for more news from us.

"Very truly yours,
HENRY"

MDC members PANEQUE and VALDES, on the occasion of their visit to the FBI Office, Miami, on August 3, 1963, advised that for several weeks prior to that date, certain members of the MDC had been in New Orleans, Louisiana, in contact with RICHARD R. DAVIS, JR., the MDC delegate in New Orleans. Included in the group at New Orleans were FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, PANEQUE and VALDES. PANEQUE stated that FERNANDEZ speaks excellent English, and in order to entrap FERNANDEZ, PANEQUE and others drew up a fictitious anti-CASTRO plan of action, which they requested FERNANDEZ to translate into English. PANEQUE made available a copy of the plan, which was translated by FERNANDEZ as follows:

"Caracas, Venezuela. July 23 1963

"Captain LEOVINO INTERIAN
c/o RICHARD R. DAVIS, JR.: Delegate in New Orleans
1570 Westbrook Dr.
New Orleans 22, La.

"Dear LEOVINO:

"I am sending you these orders in the English language, in order to avoid any kind of problems in security. Once you have opened this personally (if you do not receive the envelope sealed, do not trust the contents), I ask you to get in touch with our Delegate there as soon as possible, so that he, personally, will translate this Spanish, if you do not have any other person you can trust at the camp.

(Translator's note: English starts here)

"We have acquired the necessary financial resources as well as military bases, so that we can now hit

With Paneque a leader of the group in training and with him visiting the FBI Miami office, is it not strange the FBI sought no information from him about the camp, its sponsors and function, the purposes of the group he trained or anything else that might indicate Cuban-exile involvement in the assassination, or with Oswald and CIA?

"Castroland with everything we have. I have received a check for $9,575.00 from Mr. DAVIS and his friends, and with this money, we have paid for two Mustang's (P-51) and one B-26 Bomber. All with their bombs and ammunition.

"Zero hour for the comando raid shall be August 10, 0400 hours, objective Charlie Chan, 17 men in all, all armed with submachine guns, (300 rounds each) 5 hand granades, and one 12 gauge riot shot gun, this with 85 shells each.

"Charlie Chan is the code name for the phisical elimination of every russian son of a bitch who might happen to be living in the hotel Rosita de Hornedo, first ave. and O street in Miramar, Habana, Cuba. The commandos will take the lobby of this hotel, cut all telephone communications, and proceed, in 14 minutes to kill every russian that is at that particular time living in the hotel. They shall immediately be evacuated by the U.S. Navy, via U.D.T. (Underwater Demolition Teams) and submarine U.S.S. BARRACUDA. This sub is right now stationed 28 miles north of Habana, patroling the Key West Strights and waiting for the code word, wich shall be 'GO TIGER, GO, GO, GO.'

"At the same time, our air group 'ANTONIO MACEO' will hit the refineries of BELLOT in Habana bay, and the NARANJITO power station, thus leaving the city without electric power or oil, I have received a guaranteee if we can do this, the O.E.A., will immediately demand the overthrough of the red regime of Cuba.

"The men under your command will leave your base on August 1st, 0700 hours, and shall proceed to Nicaragua via ocean fishing boat. I shall be waiting for your arrival and take personal command from that point on. GOOD LUCK and GOD BLESS YOU

"BATISTA
Comander in Chief"

PANEQUE stated that unquestionably, the anti-CASTRO plan referred to by FERNANDEZ in his correspondence directed to the Cuban Ambassador in Mexico was information FERNANDEZ had gathered while translating the above plan of action drawn up by the MDC.

On August 5, 1963, HENRY INFANTE, an MDC member at Miami, Florida, advised that after he obtained the confidence of FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, the latter indicated he and INFANTE ought to return to Cuba. FERNANDEZ began to furnish INFANTE with letters to mail to friends and contacts. INFANTE said it was his opinion FERNANDEZ feared prosecution by federal authorities at Kansas City.

On September 1, 1963, MM T-1, another government agency which conducts security and intelligence type investigations, advised that MDC officials were then in the process of interrogating FERNANDO FERNANDEZ at the MDC headquarters in Miami and that FERNANDEZ had been beaten up during the interrogation. MM T-1 stated the MDC had caught FERNANDEZ writing to CARLOS LECHUGA, a Cuban government official, while in training with the MDC at a camp near New Orleans, Louisiana, and offering to betray the MDC.

On September 1, 1963, LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, leader of the MDC, advised information had been developed indicating FERNANDO FERNANDEZ attempted to depart the United States for Cuba on August 31, 1963, and he could not understand why United States authorities had not taken action to prevent departure of FERNANDEZ, especially in view of the fact FERNANDEZ intended to betray the MDC upon his return to Cuba. BATISTA stated FERNANDEZ had confessed during interrogation to being a Cuban intelligence agent and according to BATISTA, FERNANDEZ had requested the MDC to turn him over to the FBI.

At approximately 6:45 PM on September 1, 1963, BATISTA accompanied by other members of the MDC, brought

270

How does "another government agency which conducts security and intelligence type investigations" (read CIA?) behave when it knows someone is being beaten up and a false confession is being battered and threatened from him? It does nothing! That is what this report clearly acknowledges, if it doesn't spell it out. At the time it "advised" the FBI, "MDC officials were then in the process of interrogating" their victim. What does the FBI do? It also remains silent. This is called uphold-

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ to the Miami Office of the FBI, stating FERNANDEZ had chosen to come to the FBI voluntarily.

Interview of FERNANDO FERNANDEZ was conducted by the FBI at Miami, Florida, on September 1, 3 and 6, 1963, and the following information elicited:

FERNANDEZ was born April 20, 1929, in Cuba and entered the United States in January, 1961, taking up residence at Kansas City, Missouri, where he attended the Kansas City University and was self-employed in an employment agency wherein he imported Mexican women as maids to the Kansas City area, and this activity resulted in investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Fearing arrest by INS, FERNANDEZ left Kansas City and came to Miami, Florida, about July, 1963, where he became affiliated with the anti-CASTRO Christian Democratic Movement (MDC).

Although the expressed aim of the MDC was to return to Cuba, FERNANDEZ became disillusioned with MDC's inability to undertake meaningful action against the CASTRO regime and he conceived a plan to trade information regarding MDC military operations in order that he could obtain asylum in Cuba. He said his principal motive in desiring return to Cuba was to avoid arrest by the INS, resulting from his activity in bringing Mexican aliens into the United States.

Shortly after his affiliation with MDC at Miami, about July, 1963, he traveled with a group of MDC members to New Orleans, Louisiana, to receive commando training

271

at a farm about 30 miles north of New Orleans. About 18 men were involved in the training, which consisted of guerrilla tactics, but the equipment was inadquate and it appeared to FERNANDEZ that the MDC was conducting a racket by exhibiting the "commandos" in training to wealthy Americans who were asked to contribute to the anti-CASTRO cause. He said that while at camp near New Orleans, he was given a letter by the MDC members which set forth a military plan entitled "CHARLIE CHAN Operation." He said this operation provided for a commando landing party to assault a hotel in Cuba, killing Russian diplomats at the hotel, and then returning to the United States through assistance of underwater demolition teams operating off the U.S. Submarine BARRACUDA.

FERNANDEZ said he realized the plan was absurd and that the MDC was totally unqualified to carry it out. FERNANDEZ said that while at the MDC camp he became increasingly aware of the inability of the MDC organization in the movement against CASTRO, and in general became despondent for the success of the anti-CASTRO cause. He said since he was already fearing arrest by INS, he decided to make other plans to return to Cuba and he therefore wrote a letter to CARLOS LECHUGA, Cuban Ambassador to Cuba, in which he told LECHUGA he was a member of an anti-CASTRO organization, and had information concerning an imminent attack on Cuba and would provide the information to the Cuban Government if he could himself return to Cuba. He said he reasoned that the "CHARLIE CHAN" plan would not materialize and therefore in divulging it to the Cuban Government, he would not betray the MDC.

272

Could exposure of the "racket" by which they got money from Americans be the real reason for the exiles' anger at the alleged "spy"? Are these plans less than "absurd" these people less than "totally unqualified"?

FERNANDEZ stated after he returned to Miami with the MDC, he began to make arrangements to return to Cuba. He said he decided to leave clandestinely by boat and spoke of his plan to other members of the MDC, many of whom expressed their own desire to return to Cuba because of relatives there and disillusionment about life in exile.

FERNANDEZ said he intended to depart from Miami for Cuba on August 31, 1963, but had insufficient funds to obtain supplies for the trip. He said that on the morning of September 1, 1963, several members of the MDC placed him under house arrest at the MDC headquarters in Miami, and he was told that the members, including MDC leader LAUREANO BATISTA, were then acting in the capacity of a tribunal which could impose the death sentence on FERNANDEZ. FERNANDEZ stated under duress and threats of murder by MDC members, he confessed to being a Cuban intelligence agent and was released by the MDC after they had him sign a document in which he stated no duress was used to secure the confession.

During interview by the FBI, FERNANDEZ maintained that his confessions to the MDC were false and that he made them in order to obtain his release. He denied he ever acted as a Cuban intelligence agent or that he was a Communist, and stated his purpose in desiring to return to Cuba was to reunite with his family in spite of the CASTRO regime to which he is ideologically opposed. He admitted having written to CARLOS LECHUGA as alleged by the MDC and said his purpose was to exchange information with the Cuban government for safe return to Cuba.

Is it possible that Fernandez did not tell the FBI that his life was threatened and that the "confession" was beaten out of him? This report pretends to report what he said but has no reference to the strong-arm stuff, reported to the FBI while being administered. Here we have another example of the fidelity and totality of FBI reporting, its dedication to nothing but the whole truth.

On October 4, 1963, FERNANDEZ advised a Special Agent of the FBI that subsequent to the considerable derogatory publicity disseminated by various news media concerning his purported confession as a Cuban agent, he has lived in fear of reprisals by Cubans in the Miami area who believe he attempted to betray their cause. He said because of this and his concern for his family in Cuba, he again decided to attempt to arrange his legal return to Cuba, and in furtherance thereof wrote to CARLOS LECHUGA of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in New York and also to the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

FERNANDEZ said he thought LECHUGA was the Cuban Ambassador to Mexico when he had written the letter regarding the plans of the MDC.

FERNANDEZ said he had not received a reply from his letter to CARLOS LECHUGA, but the Czechoslovakian Embassy, Washington, D.C., by letter dated September 30, 1963, acknowledged his communication and advised that no information relating to his status had been received from Cuba.

On October 16, 1963, FERNANDEZ advised he was attempting to be relocated in the United States through the assistance of the Catholic Relief Service at Miami.

On October 22, 1963, information was received from FERNANDEZ he was then residing at the YMCA at 826 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Need one wonder how much of a "spy" Fernandez was, how little pro-Castro if he didn't even know the assignments of major diplomatic personnel and didn't know how to address the man to whom he "reported"?

274

Record of the U.S. District Court, Chicago, Illinois, Docket #63CR664, reflects that on February 20, 1964, FERNANDEZ was sentenced in Federal District Court, Chicago, to serve five years on each of three counts of violation of Section 1324 (a) IV, Title 8, U. S. Code. At that time FERNANDEZ had entered a plea of guilty to the charge of encouraging and inducing the illegal entry of aliens into the United States. Execution of sentence was suspended and FERNANDEZ was placed on probation for three years. FERNANDEZ was restricted by the court to remain within the jurisdiction of the Northern District of Illinois, unless he obtained permission from the Probation Department.

With respect to the training camp of the MDC near New Orleans, Louisiana, where FERNANDEZ stated he had been in August, 1963, FERNANDEZ advised the camp was on a farm believed known as the Gus Labar Walhend, about 30 miles north of New Orleans.

It is also noted that following the interrogation of FERNANDEZ by the MDC on September 1, 1963, which interrogation was partially conducted by MANOLO DE CANAL, Spanish Radio Station Commentator in Miami, details of FERNANDEZ' confession were broadcast from Miami radio stations. This publicity included allegations that 8 individuals located in the United States; Nassau, Bahamas; Mexico and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, were known to FERNANDEZ as CASTRO agents. Six of the eight individuals who were alleged to be CASTRO agents, voluntarily presented themselves for interviews on September 3 and 4, 1963, to deny the allegations and clear their names. These individuals were DIEGO VALERO of Nassau, Bahamas;

JULIO POWER of Hialeah, Florida; CLAUDIO RODRIGUEZ and [illegible] MENENDEZ of Miami, Florida, and HENRY BRUZUAL of Mexico City. BRUZUAL presented himself in the office of the American Embassy in Mexico City, for the purpose of clearing his name, as well as that of GUSTAVO [illegible]MAYA, whose name had also been included as an alleged CASTRO agent. The only two individuals who did not present themselves to deny the allegations of FERNANDEZ were CARLOS LECHUGA of the Cuban Delegation to the United Nations and JOSE RODRIGUEZ MENENDEZ, described as a Cuban Embassy officer in Rio de Janeiro.

Also related to the confession given by FERNANDEZ to the MDC, is advice from the Office of the State Attorney, Miami, Florida, that on September 5, 1963, FERNANDEZ appeared at that office and furnished a sworn statement charging his civil rights were violated by a Cuban group that forced him by threats and violence to give a false statement implicating himself as a CASTRO spy.

It is noted that testimony by CARLOS BRINGUIER to Counsel for the Commission reflects on page 46 of his transcript that an article by Professor HERMINIO PORTELL-VILA, appearing in the February 2, 1964, issue of the magazine BOHEMIA INTERNACIONAL, contained a statement that FIDEL CASTRO was said to have made in a speech at the University of Havana on November 27, 1963. The statement was quoted as "The first time that OSWALD was in Cuba....."

BOHEMIA INTERNACIONAL, printed in Venezuela, is distributed at Miami, Florida, by Spanish Publications, 739 N.W. 29th Street.

That this is fiction, like so much of what originated with Bringuier, did not keep it from being broadcast by the radical right, quoting the Commission's "evidence" as its "source", nor did it keep the Commission from printing it, knowing it to be wrong. This encouraged its further misuse by those irresponsibles whose major interest was propaganda, not truth and who were not concerned with the consequences of spreading misinformation about the murder of an American President.